

****THESE QUESTIONS ARE MEANT AS A GUIDE TO ASSIST WITH THE CONVERSATION TO GATHER TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE VOLUNTARY, AND IF THERE ARE OTHER AREAS YOU FEEL ARE IMPORTANT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INCLUDE THAT INFORMATION.*******

Bristol Bay Cultural Assessment

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ECOLOGY, NUTRITION AND HEALTH

1. If the salmon were to disappear for whatever reason, how would it affect your lives?
2. How many times in a week or a month do you eat salmon or other fish? Is it different during different seasons?
3. Do people in your village need to eat salmon to be healthy? How does salmon maintain or improve physical or emotional health?
4. Which foods are important to give to a child so that he or she will grow up to be smart? Strong?
5. Does it matter to you if the salmon you eat is wild salmon? Does it matter to you if the salmon comes from the streams and rivers in your area?
6. Does it matter to you that the salmon are connected to the salmon your ancestors ate?
7. If the fishing practices and care for the streams and rivers are what the ancestors call, without impurity, (beggesh quistlagh) meaning the practices are good , does it result in fish coming back?
8. Have you observed changes in the numbers of salmon that come back each year? Is there a big difference some years? If there is, what do you think causes these differences?
9. Are salmon important for the lives of other animals or birds that are important to the Yup'ik or Dena'ina ? What would happen to these animals or birds if they can't eat the

salmon?

SOCIAL SYSTEMS

1. Who do you share food with? Relatives in Anchorage, Dillingham? Elders? Who decides how to share the salmon, and who to give salmon to?
 - a. Do you share salmon with people who don't do subsistence and what type of things to you get in return?
2. What does it mean for families to go fishing together? Do young people learn a lot at fish camp? How do you teach the young people to catch salmon? Do you teach young people to respect the salmon?
3. How do you feel when you give salmon? How do you feel when you are given salmon?
4. Do you feel an obligation to return the favor when someone gives you salmon?
5. Are salmon and other wild foods in community celebrations? Is this important?
6. It has been said that most Yup'ik/Dena'ina believe that a wealthy person is one with a large family. Do you think that family is more important than material wealth?

SPIRITUALITY

7. Do you do anything to make sure the salmon will return?
8. Yup'ik . Have you heard the elders talk about the tunghit (powerful spirit beings who control the recycling of different animals, fish, and bird forms)? What does it mean for you?
9. What would it mean to treat salmon badly? Why is this bad?
10. Did the old people tell of a time when there would be a disaster and the fish would disappear?
11. Do you ever thank the salmon for offering itself to you? Do you ever pray when you catch salmon? Do you make an offering when you catch the first salmon?
12. Do you ever hear the elders talk about the salmon having a spirit?
13. Did you ever hear elders talk about a stream having a spirit or being like it was alive? Do some people still think that way?

14. Do rivers or streams have events – or stories - associated with them that are good or bad?
Is it appropriate to tell any of them now?

SUBSISTENCE

15. How do people get money to buy boats and motors for subsistence fishing?
16. Do you feel a connection between the way you fish today and the ancestors' way of fishing?
17. Why do you live in your village?